

Last week, Oxford High School became the 30th school shooting in 2021, with four dead and seven injured. Thirty times this year alone.

These are not isolated incidents. They join a long history of our Nation's failure to have an honest discussion about guns and gun violence.

Lawmakers have the responsibility to legislate and to protect our children and our neighbors from gun violence.

When will we wake up to a new day?

□ 1615

DEMOCRATS' DRUG PRICING SCHEME JEOPARDIZES FUTURE CURES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the Federal Government cannot be given the ability to police innovators who create lifesaving products. Top-down, government-imposed drug pricing would eliminate consumer choices, jeopardize future cures, and ultimately lead to socialized medicine.

The United States invents approximately two-thirds of the world's new medicines. Our system encourages private investments which spur innovation. This is something we should be proud of and encourage, not curtail.

But under the Democrats' radical Build Back Better Act, new drugs and cures for diseases like cancer and diabetes would be reduced. Price controls will lead to reduced access for patients and will set a dangerous precedent.

If the Federal Government has the authority to dictate the cost of prescription drugs, what else will it decide to set prices for?

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS ARE IMPORTANT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding the ongoing threat posed by COVID-19.

After 22 months of this pandemic, we cannot be complacent. In order to prevent further spread of the virus, either someone has to die, which I don't consider a very good alternative, or everybody else who isn't vaccinated ought to get their vaccines. By doing so, you prevent more suffering and death.

In Ohio, COVID-19 is ripping across the State. Our emergency rooms are full of patients, and our ICU staffs are overworked. Ninety-five percent of COVID hospitalizations are among unvaccinated individuals—95 percent. This is costing our healthcare system billions of dollars and wear and tear on all of our medical professionals.

However, only 61 percent of Ohio residents have received their first dose. That means the majority aren't pulling with the crew.

I urge all of us to think about the safety of our family, our friends, and

our neighbors and do what we must to assist the well-being of those who are working overtime now for almost 2 years in our healthcare facilities. They are serving on the front lines.

We all have a duty to be patriotic, and that means saving lives, not taking them, and making sure that you get your vaccine.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN LIBERAL CITIES

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, this holiday season, most Americans are using the conventional shopping method. They choose their item in the store and pay for it at the checkout.

However, this year, others are going with a different approach: smash and grab robberies. Thugs are ambushing stores, breaking windows, and destroying store property, then walking out with all the merchandise they can carry. Robberies at pharmacies and retail stores are on the rise this year, mostly in liberal cities like San Francisco, Chicago, and New York City. There is a clear pattern here.

Store robberies are up in Democrat-run cities that push defund the police agendas and refrain from punishing criminals in the name of equity. Criminals in these cities figured out there is no consequence for busting up a Gucci store and walking out with thousands of dollars of merchandise.

For example, in California, people can steal up to \$950 worth of merchandise without being charged with a felony. Many looters in California cities who get arrested are quickly released because they don't even have to pay bail.

Unfortunately, many Democrats are willingly ignorant of this trend. They even attribute the rise in smash-and-grab robberies to the coronavirus or deny the problem exists at all. They keep pushing their antipolice, procriminal policies, and it is hard-working businessowners and employees who end up paying the price.

Madam Speaker, I always remember what my parents told me: Let's not close the barn door after the cows have already left.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY CHINA

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, we know that about 1.5 million Uyghur and Kazakh Muslims have been detained in reeducation camps and that products made in the Xinjiang region have been made with forced labor—in other words, slavery.

The House considered the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, led by Chairman MCGOVERN, that would ban

the import of goods made with forced labor and sanction people responsible for modern-day slavery.

This is ethnic cleansing happening here. The world cannot look away from one of the most egregious and deadly incidents of ongoing Islamophobia, genocide, and slavery.

I was proud to vote "yes" on this legislation and hope to ensure that we hold China accountable for this egregious human rights abuse.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MIKE SCHERNECK

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Scherneck's selfless 18-year career with the Southeast Georgia Health System.

After nearly two decades of dedicated service to residents of Georgia's First District, Mike will retire early next year as CEO of the Southeast Georgia Health System.

In 2003, Mike began his tenure as the executive vice president and CFO. In 2015, he was named president and CEO due to his dedication and hard work ethic.

Without Mike's tireless advocacy, the Southeast Georgia Health System would not be the top-tier facility it is today.

In a tenure wrought with trials, including three hurricanes and a global pandemic, Mike's extraordinary leadership allowed the health system not just to survive but to thrive.

While we know that Mike is looking forward to retired life, we are certainly sad to see him go.

Mike is leaving the Southeast Georgia Health System better than he found it and decades of future CEOs will surely be inspired by his lasting legacy.

NICOLE MONTNA VAN VLECK HONORED AS RICE FARMER OF THE YEAR

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I am here today to recognize the great work of a fellow rice farmer, Nicole Montna Van Vleck. She was just named the USA Rice Federation's 2021 Rice Farmer of the Year.

She is a third-generation rice farmer in northern California and serves as president and CEO of her Montna Farms in Sutter County.

At Montna Farms, conservation is a priority. America's rice farmers have a longstanding commitment to protect and preserve natural resources.

Not only is she involved with her family's California rice operation, but she also makes time for her passion of promoting the U.S. rice industry.